

**The Love of Brethren.**

Our Savior laid this practical demand on the brethren, "A new command I give unto you, that ye love one another," and he adds, "By this shall men know that ye are my disciples." This is one of the cardinal principles of Christianity, as upon it rests justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude. It makes it the indispensable duty to so regulate our conduct, that we extend to the brethren that love and affection that characterised all of Christ's teachings to his disciples: not to speak evil of others, nor to listen when others wish to speak evil of their neighbors. It is true and lamentably so, that there are many among us who take delight in promoting strife and discord. But is it agreeable to the commands of Christ to set friends at variance with each other, to bring discord and heart-burning within the pale of the church and thus corrode that love that forms the binding link between the brethren?

The necessity then for the exertion and strengthening of brotherly love among Christians in the church is obvious to every member. Peace, regularity, and good will, are indispensable duties then. All resentment and ill feeling should be forgotten, and that cordiality ought to be warm among members that brings with it cheerfulness and rejoicing. The most natural part of that brotherly love which should exist among Christians is that of speaking well of each other to the world. Calumny and slander are detestable crimes against society in any form and how much more detestable are they when brought within the circle of the brotherhood. It is not enough that we refrain from all discordant influences, but it is required of Christians that they should speak graciously and with affection, withholding nothing that can be uttered to a brother's peace or good name with truth. Here is a selfish joy in good speaking as self-approbation succeeds it.

Men are born for society and designed as a help and comfort to each other. The very nature and situation, the interest and happiness of mankind shows the importance and necessity of pursuing the things which make for peace, and the things wherewith one may edify another. The duty itself implies mutual love and charity. He who observes it will be kind and condescending. His heart will glow with benevolence. He has intercourse with his fellowmen he will show the most obliging attention to their affairs and the most active readiness to promote their welfare. In short he is desirous and ready upon all occasions to make up differences, to rectify misunderstandings, to soften prejudices and restore harmony and good will. The very genius and design of Christianity assign us this duty; its credit and prosperity demand it. Are we not instructed not only to dwell together in love and unity; but to follow peace with all men. Convince the world by an amiable deportment, a wise demeanor and good example that Christianity discourages all imprudence and forbids all sin.

Therefore we should be ever vigilant in the discharge of our duty, and particularly assiduous in cultivating those grand essentials of our church, brotherly love, beneficence and truth. Thus we shall be always happy in assembling together. Thus will our church shine with undiminished luster. Thus supported by wisdom, strength and beauty; adorned with peace, plenty and harmony connected by brotherly love and Christian forbearance, what has it to fear? The tides of time or the gusts of malice may assault its walls; all, all in vain.

H.

**The Golden Rule as Applied by a Heathen.**

In the Heathen Woman's Friend we find the following story told by a English missionary lady about a class of small children in China she was teaching: "The youngest of them had contrived to keep his place at the head so long that he seemed to claim it by right of possession. Growing self-confident he missed the word, which was immediately spelled by the boy standing next him, whose face expressed the triumph he felt, yet he made no more toward taking the place, and when urged to do so firmly refused, saying, 'No me not go; me not make Ah Fun's heart sorry.' That little act meant much self-denial, yet was done so thoughtfully and kindly that spontaneously from several lips came the quick remark, 'He do all the same as Jesus' golden rule.'"

**OUR YOUNG FOLKS.****Waiting to Grow.**

Little white snow drops, just waking up,  
Violet, daisy, and sweet buttercup;  
Think of the flowers that are under the snow.  
Waiting to grow!

And think what hosts of queer little seeds,  
Of flowers and mosses, of ferns and of weeds,  
Are under the leaves and under the snow,  
Waiting to grow!

Think of the roots getting ready to sprout,  
Reaching their slender, brown fingers about,  
Under the ice and the leaves and the snow,  
Waiting to grow!

Only a month, or a few weeks more,  
Will they have to wait behind that door;  
Listen and watch and wait below,  
Waiting to grow!

Nothing so small, and hidden so well,  
That God will not find it, and presently tell  
His sun where to shine and His rain where to go,  
Helping them grow!

—Pres. Banner.

DEAR EDITOR.—I love to read the letters the little folks write for your paper. I have almost two miles to go to school. I do not like to miss school. I had to miss one day when I was sick. My sister has not missed one day of school yet. I study Arithmetic, Geography, Reading, Writing and Spelling. My teacher's name is Mr. C. L. Melvin. We live six miles from the Brethren church. E. L. Yoder is our minister. My grandpa, S. C. Stump, has gone to Davenport, Neb., to see his brother.

PEARL A. LUTZ.

Falls City, Neb.

DEAR EDITOR:—I thought I would write a few lines for the Children's Column. Pa takes the Brethren paper and I like to read the children's letters. I go to school. My teacher's name is J. D. Findley, we like him very much. My studies are Reading, Arithmetic, Geography, Language, Spelling, Writing. I am 12 years old. Father, mother and three of my sisters belong to the Brethren church. We live close to the church. Mother is sexton of the church now for two years. Our preacher's name is Benj. Goughenour. We have a good Sunday School and I like to go to it. Our teacher's name is B. F. Burkhart and I like him very much. We had a nice treat on Christmas. We all enjoyed it. I will close by answering Ella B. Hoover's question: Where was Moses buried? Answer, in a valley in the land of Moab. I will ask a question. What became of the brazen serpent that Moses had made in the wilderness? I will close hoping to see this in print, as it is my first letter. Good by editor.

GEORGE A. STORK.

Johnstown or Rosedale, Pa.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my first attempt to write for the Children's Column. My pa, ma and too oldest brothers and sister belong to the Brethren church. I go to school this winter. My teacher's name is W. P. Nelson. I like him very much. My studies are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar, and Geography. I am nine years of age. I wish I were in Ida Yagle's place to hear J. H. Palmer (my brother) preach. I go to Sunday School every Sunday and preaching every two weeks at Mt. Zion. I live in the country. I will close for this time and perhaps I may write again if this does not join with the waste basket.

Good by,

JENNIE PALMER.

Logan, Ohio.

DEAR EDITOR:—I thought I would write again for the EVANGELIST, as I have not written for some time. I go to church, Sabbath School and singing. My teacher's name is Mr. J. G. Speicher, M. D. in Sabbath School. Rev. S. H. Bashor has got back again. Rev. R. F. Mallott was preaching here in his place while he was gone. Mr. Mallott was at our house. We enjoyed his visit very much and hope he will come again. We have had some very cold weather here this winter. My father, mother and sister belong to the Brethren church.

My sister is married and lives two miles from home. I have one sister and two brothers. I will close for this time by asking a question. How many sons did Noah have? Please answer my question. Yours truly,

VENA VIOLA WASSAM.

Hudson, Iowa., Jan. 28, 1887.

DEAR EDITOR:—It is my first attempt to write for the Children's Column. I am nine years old. We have one mile from the Brethren church at Hudson. We have preaching twice every Sunday. We have Sunday School after church in the morning. Mr. Heslain is our superintendent. Miss Cora Roberts is my teacher. It is very cold here this winter and lots of snow. My pa takes the EVANGELIST, and I like to read the letters. For fear of wearying your patience I will close.

CLARENCE WYCKLIFF WASSAM.

Hudson, Iowa.

DEAR EDITOR:—As pa was writing I thought I would write too. The measles are in town here and every one that has not had them are taking them. We have all had them. Pa is in bed sleeping now; he was up all night with Mr. Rock. He has got the measles. My brother George is staying with his grandpa's and going to the country school. We still keep our Sunday School a going. I like to read the letters of the EVANGELIST. I am staying with Mrs. Gilesie at nights. Her husband is off teaming. I will close for this time. Hoping to see this in print. Yours truly,

MARY SHOE.

Sherwood, Ohio., Jan. 27, 1887.

DEAR EDITOR:—I have not written for a long time. I thought I would take my pen and ink and write for the Children's Column. I am in school now. My studies are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, Geography. I will be ten years old on the last of April. We had a spelling on Tuesday evening at the Fair View school house. It was very full, some behaved good and some did not so good as they ought to. We have 21 boys in our school and 20 girls. I will close for this time. I wish to see this in print.

Young people all attention give,  
While I address you in God's name, you  
Who in sin and folly live.

Yours truly,

MARY E. HANG.

Canton, Ohio., Jan. 22, 1887.

**Church Burdens.**

In a private letter a correspondent says he was admonished to assist in "bearing the burdens of the church," therefore would like to know what "burdens" the church member is expected to assist in bearing. We hope the brother will excuse us for answering a question asked privately in such a public manner.

There are burdens which the church ought to bear; such as the expenses and the responsibilities of pastoral service and of public worship. There is also the burden of carrying on the work of salvation beyond the confines of organized congregations; the alleviation of suffering and distress by alms giving and personal service. The duty of every good church member is to assist in carrying the burden. Then again there are burdens which the church ought not to bear; such as a church debt, or a reputation for sloth, sham or carelessness. In this case the duty of the church member is to assist in throwing off the burden.—Ex.

Do you feel that you could do more, pray more, or give more, and are tempted not to do it? Look at it again in the light of Gethsemane and Calvary. How the treasures and pleasures of earth pale, like the rushlight before the glorious noontide sun, as we think of the appeal of the great Apostle, who himself had sacrificed all for Christ. "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who though he was rich, yet for your sakes became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."—Donald McLeod.

Great hearts alone understand how much glory there is in being good.—Michelet.